

when he becomes heretical in relation to some denominational doctrine, even of no vital moment, than they will when he violates some moral law of importance. And, what is really amusing, some will stick to a bad man until he chances to offend them by some trick or insult!

THE INCREASE OF THE CHURCH

J. L. GILLIN

During the year just ended it has been my privilege to watch the progress of the Brethren church as it was shown by the number of converts reported thru the columns of the EVANGELIST. The number reported was 1077. During the first quarter 515 were reported, 211 during the second quarter, 125 during the third and 225 during the fourth quarter. Taking 12727 as the number of our members (this was the number reported by 173 churches in 1900) we can readily ascertain that our rate of increase was a little more than eight and two fifths per cent. Of course this is not the net per cent. of gain which could only be ascertained by subtracting the number of members lost last year from this 1077 and then finding out what per cent. that is of the whole number of members. These 173 congregations have an average of 73 members in each. And each of these 73 members had an average of less than 10 converts last year.

According to the statistical report our net gain was five and one tenth per cent. Now, brethren, we ought to wake up. We exist to save souls. Are we doing all we can to this end? Are our preachers doing all possible to win souls to Christ? Are our members doing all they can to bring men from "darkness into his marvelous light"? How much each member could do by speaking often to those not yet Christians and praying for them. Let us as churches, as preachers and as members wake up to our responsibility.

GIVING AND RECEIVING GIFTS

ERNEST L. JOHNSON

Christmas is a time when all human hearts should feel glad, it is a day of giving and receiving gift in remembrance of one another. I don't think there is ever a more appropriate time to offer a gift than Christmas. Our hearts should be warm and full of love, remembering the greatest gift that was ever offered to the human family was the Christmas gift to us by our great and holy God. No event has ever been marked down in history that should be so well remembered or as sacredly honored as the birth of that one great and noble gift which is our dear and loving Jesus.

When we give gifts we always expect something in return, if nothing more than appreciation. What can we give to prove our appreciation for the one great gift that has been given us by the highest? Let us give ourselves to Jesus in faith, as he was given to us, and prove our faithfulness to him as he proved his to the Father on his imperial throne, and according to his unfailing prom-

ises he will at last crown us with the blessings of eternal peace and happiness. Some ten years ago I gave myself to Jesus, was baptised in the faith and directed on the way by one of our leading elders, brother J. F. Koontz, and have never as yet regretted the day.

Nearly ten years elapsed since I had the pleasure of meeting our dear Brother Koontz until last Sunday. He paid a short visit to the capitol city of our nation and I had the pleasure of shaking his welcome hand and hearing his familiar voice ringing out the sweet gospel of Jesus. He relieved our regular pastor, Brother Lyons, of his Sunday sermons. His text at the morning services was a part of the 18th verse of the 16th chapter of Matthew, "and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." I hope that I may be a part of the material he referred to in his discourse, with which the church is built. His evening text was from the 3rd to the 8th verse of I Cor. inclusive, but on account of my daily duties demanding my attention I was deprived of the pleasure of hearing that sermon.

My daily prayer is that we may all give ourselves to Jesus as a Christmas gift and that he may use us as material in the church that the gates of hell shall not prevail against.
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FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE

C. H. BALSBAUGH

To David Fisher of the Wabash Infirmary, Indiana:—Our knowledge, at the best, is superficial and limited; but our faith is as large as God. We believe that Christ is as human as we, and yet very God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father. But our knowledge is so far from comprehending it that we are constrained to repeat the confession of Paul: "Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; God was manifest in the flesh." I Tim. 3:16. Our faith cannot comprehend more in eternity than in this world; but it will forever and ever grow in intelligence.

Your letter is full of the deepest problems that can engage the mind of man or angel. The mysteries of humanity are things which the denizens of the upper realm desire to look into. I Pet. 1:12.

The universe has an Author. He is omniscient and omnipotent. He has an eternal purpose, which will be consummated in due time thru the administration of our divine, human Redeemer. Eph. 3:11. He is Alpha and Omega. Every problem must be solved in accordance with his programme.

Sin is a fact, but not unanticipated, nor unprovided for. God is never taken by surprise. Back of Adam is the waiting I AM, ready to meet all the consequences of the fall. Sin and death are inseparable. Rom. 6:23. When God became incarnate he had to submit to this issue. If man is to be redeemed from the dominion and fruits of sin, God must become flesh and die. But Jesus Christ is stronger than sin and death. There-

fore there is a glorious destiny awaiting those who are in Christ. John 14:2, 3, and 17:24, and Phil. 3:21, and I John 3:2. This covers the whole ground of the queries contained in your letter. If we are Christians, Rom. 8:18, will be gloriously fulfilled.

The world is utterly blind, and the church only partially awake. If we had the "open face" of II Cor. 3:18, we would possess a higher stage of sanctification, greater zeal, and a larger ingathering of souls. But we too often reverse II Cor. 4:18, and Col. 3:2. The high calling of God is in Christ Jesus, and involves the earnestness and holiness and attainment of Phil. 3:14, and II Thess. 1:11, 12. We make altogether too little of the personal continuity of the Divine Incarnation. The human is only the medium: "It is God that worketh in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Phil. 2:13.

The problem of longevity to which you specially refer, is one which has almost passed out of the cognizance of both world and church. That the possibilities of human vitality are far beyond what is almost universally believed, I entertain no doubt. Let the divine ideal of generation, embryology, child-nurture, matured manhood and womanhood be accepted, exemplified, realized and the world would be full of centenarian temples of the Holy Ghost.

One thing is absolutely essential: Christ must be our life, if death is to be our gain. Phil. 1:21. And that means such love to God and man that we can honestly and unceasingly glory in Gal. 6:14.

The Home

Rabboni

I had walked life's path with an easy tread;

Had followed where comfort and pleasure led,

And then, it chanced' in a quiet place

I met my Master face to face.

With station and rank and wealth for a goal,

Much thought for the body, but none for the soul,

I had entered to win in life's mad race

When I met my Master face to face.

I had built my castles and reared them high;

With their towers had pierced the blue of the sky;

I had sworn to rule with iron mace

When I met my Master face to face.

I met Him and knew Him, and blushed to see

That His eyes, full of sorrow, were fixed on me,

And I faltered and fell at His feet that day,

While my castles melted and vanished away.

Melted and vanished, and, in their place;

I saw naught else but my Master's face;

And I cried aloud, "Oh, make me meet

To follow the marks of Thy tired feet!

My thought is now for the souls of men;

I have lost my life to find it again,

E'er since, alone in that holy place,

My Master and I stood face to face.

—Church Union.

Beauty's Gravest Foe

Adele E. Shaw, in the May Woman's Home Companion.

Bad temper and worry will trace more wrinkles in one night than hot and cold bathing, and massage and complexion brushes, and creams and lotions can wash out in a year's faithful application. Physicians assert